(b) The details of these 2 works are as under:

(i) Booking office & improvements to circulating area—the work was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 14.13 lakh and 98% of the work is complete. The target date of completion for the work is December, 2002.

(ii) 2nd foot over bridge—This work has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 17.00 lakh with an outlay of Rs. 7.00 lakh for the current year. The target date of completion is July, 2003.

Dangerous Rail Bridges in Bihar

†1166. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges in Bihar which have been declared dangerous;

(b) the amount spent by Government for their repair and maintenance during the last three years;

(c) the details of the new bridges for which proposals are being considered; and

(d) by when construction work for the new bridges is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Works for rehabilitation/rebuilding of existing bridges is an ongoing exercise. As a result of detailed inspections, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges is carried out on a programmed basis. Further, besides new bridges under construction at Patna and Monghyr over river Ganga, one bridge is under consideration for construction over river Kosi in connection with restoration of Nirmali—Saraigarh line. Its construction, however, shall depend on availability of various sanctions & clearances.

Rail lines in backward Regions

1167. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have a policy to lay new rail lines in backward regions of India for their development, without considering economical viability;

(b) if so, the details of the policy in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether rail lines had been laid in the backward regions during past, due to economical viability only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The new lines are taken up on various criteria including project oriented lines, missing links, strategic reasons and for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas. Economic and Financial viability of the project are assessed during survey stage. However, based on persistent demands from the people for the area, the elected representatives and State Governments, several new line projects have been taken up in backward and remote areas for socio-economic development.

Irregular Trains on Jalukbari-Lakhimpur Line

1168. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for irregularity of trains on the metre gauge rail line from Jalukbari to Lakhimpur and up; and

(b) what steps have been planned to remove these causes and to regularise the trains on this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Punctuality of trains on Jalukbari (Kamakhya)—Lakhimpur section is affected due to law and order problems. The section is also flooding prone resulting in breaches during rainy season, and speed restrictions have been imposed owing to track condition affecting train speeds.

5813/5814 Murkongselek-Kamakhya Arunachal Express, which was running on alternate days from 20.5.2002 to 18.11.2002 due to breaches on the section, has been restored as a daily service from 19.11.2002.

Frequency of Rajdhani Expresses

1169. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: